



Chapter 4: **West Seattle-wide plans**

4. 1 : West Seattle-wide Issues

There are many community issues that transcend village or planning area boundaries and are common to all neighborhoods in West Seattle. Issues and opportunities related to public safety, transportation, human development and cultural arts are recognized to be larger than the "sphere of influence" of any single neighborhood or community organization and should be addressed in collaborative efforts of all effected communities.

The recommendations provided in this section have been discussed, and compiled by the five West Seattle Neighborhood Planning Groups; Admiral, Delridge, Junction, Morgan, and Westwood.

The recommendations contained in this section are repeated from the individual topic sections that proceed in this document. And, some overlap in recommendations might be apparent. However, the Delridge Planning Committee believes that acknowledging the commonality of these issues herein will help begin the process of collaboration among West Seattle neighborhoods

Transportation:

Action Plan

- Develop and implement a comprehensive "action program" of transportation system improvements and actions that will fully address the existing and future access needs of the entire West Seattle community. The action program must:
 - Define and quantify existing and future access needs
 - Be comprehensive: it must jointly address all modes of transportation, and it must address all levels of detail, from the "universal" (e.g., transportation system capacity) to the "microscopic" (e.g., traffic operations on Bridge on-ramps)
 - Identify immediate, near-term, and long-range improvements and actions, and develop an implementation program for them

Regional Express

- The City of Seattle, the Port of Seattle, WSDOT, and Metro should cooperate to provide roadway, intersection, and traffic control improvements that give Regional Express and Metro buses priority to, from, onto, off of, and across the West Seattle Bridge and the Spokane St. Viaduct. Such improvements may include:
 - adding a lane for HOV on the Bridge and the Viaduct
 - Intersection and ramp queue jump/bypass lanes on Bridge and Viaduct access routes
 - Traffic signal priority and preemption
- "Regional Express," the express bus division of Sound Transit (RTA) plans to begin operating a number of express bus routes throughout the region in the fall of 1999. One of the Regional Express routes will operate between Sea-

Tac Airport and downtown Seattle via Burien, White Center, Fauntleroy, and West Seattle.

- Recognizing the need to make limited stops on this express service, the Regional Express West Seattle route should maximize the connections and access it provides in West Seattle, including transfers with Metro routes and access to the Fauntleroy Ferry Terminal, ensuring that the Regional Express bus route serves the urban villages along California Ave SW.
- The Regional Express West Seattle route should be extended or through-routed via I-90 to the Eastside after stopping in downtown Seattle.

Elliot Bay Water Taxi

The existing Elliott Bay Water Taxi, begun in 1997, is a summer-season passenger-only ferry service connecting West Seattle and downtown Seattle. The Water Taxi service should be expanded into a permanent year-round system (like Vancouver, BC's Seabus) that is designed to be an integral and important element of the transportation system serving West Seattle. In order to determine the capital and operational requirements of such a system and to guide its incremental development, a long range comprehensive master plan for facilities and services – on both sides of Elliott Bay – should be prepared.

Connections to the West Seattle Seabus terminal should be expanded and improved. Bus service, shuttle/circulator service, a potential tram/funicular system, parking (or lack thereof), and bike/pedestrian pathways should be addressed.

- Improve and expand public transportation facilities and services providing access to/from West Seattle:
 - Improve speed and efficiency of existing and future bus service by enabling buses to avoid traffic congestion
 - Expand service coverage in West Seattle: make transit services more easily accessible to more people and activities
 - Expand transit network connections: provide more and better linkages between West Seattle and other parts of the City and region
 - Develop new, alternative modes of public transportation to provide additional “auto-less” access to West Seattle (e.g., waterborne transit, monorail)

Transit (bus) service

Metro should continue to expand service hours and frequency of its West Seattle service. Also, Metro should continue to increase the number of West Seattle, Seattle, and King County origins/destinations served by West Seattle routes.

Several transit “hubs,” where multiple bus and rail routes can exchange passengers, should be developed to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and utility of West Seattle transit service:

- A transit hub on Spokane St. near I-5 would provide West Seattle buses with direct Eastside connections, transfers with South Seattle, South King

County, and **Eastside** bus routes inbound and outbound to/from downtown. and a link to the RTA's future Commuter Rail line.

- A transit hub at the west end of the West Seattle Bridge would provide a connection point for Metro and Regional Express bus routes serving various parts of West Seattle (including shuttles/circulators) and for access to the Elliott Bay "Seabus" terminal.
- A transit hub at the West Seattle Junction would provide a connection point for Metro and Regional Express bus routes serving various parts of West Seattle.
- Encourage electrification of local West Seattle bus routes.

In addition to the hubs, direct bus-only ramps connecting the Spokane St. Viaduct and the E-3 Busway (to/from the downtown transit tunnel) are needed to improve travel times for West Seattle-downtown transit service.

- Work with Fauntleroy Community Association to encourage the rerouting of State ferries to downtown Seattle.

Human Development:

- Complete a West Seattle inventory, needs assessment and human development strategic plan to guide service delivery and funding over the next 20 years.
- Develop a multi-faceted set of communication/public outreach tools to better serve clients and increase knowledge of available services. Tools may include: WEB page, written flyers, non-written communications/announcements, and public service announcements.
- Work with other West Seattle neighborhoods and agencies to develop a Human Services Provider Information Network that would result in more knowledgeable referral information being provided to the consumer of human services.

Community and Culture:

- Develop a Community and Cultural Center serving all of the West Seattle/Duwamish area.

Public Safety

- Develop a fully staffed West Seattle Police precinct with 24-hour operation, 7 days a week.